

***A SPEECH BY PAUL MINICUCCI GIVEN SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>, IN SAN DIEGO AT THE LAUNCH OF THE SAN DIEGO PARTNERSHIP FOR ARTS EDUCATION***

**THE LYRICS TO ONE OF MY FAVORITE PAUL SIMON SONGS GO SOMETHING LIKE THIS:**

*“We came on a ship they call the mayflower,  
We came on a ship that sailed the moon.  
We came in America’s most uncertain hour  
To sing an American tune.”*

**TO BE SURE, WE ARE LIVING THROUGH ONE OF AMERICA’S MOST UNCERTAIN HOURS. IN ALL OUR HISTORY PERHAPS ONLY THE CIVIL WAR COMPARES TO THE TRAGEDIES OF A WEEK AGO BECAUSE, LIKE THE CIVIL WAR, THESE TRAGIC ACTS OF WAR THREATEN THE LIFE AND STABILITY OF AMERICANS IN OUR HOMELAND. AND NO ONE DOUBTS THAT WHAT WE NEED NOW AT THIS MOMENT IS TO SING AN AMERICAN TUNE.**

**A SONG ABOUT LIFE AND LOVE, ABOUT PATIENCE AND COMPASSION, ABOUT DETERMINATION AND RESOLVE, TRAITS THAT HELP DEFINE THE AMERICAN PERSONALITY. BUT MOSTLY, I THINK, WE NEED TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN OUR SONGS, PERHAPS MORE NOW THAN AT ANY OTHER MOMENT IN TIME OUR CHILDREN WILL NEED OUR SONGS TO CONNECT TO US, TO OUR PARENTS AND TO EACH OTHER. TO SING AN AMERICAN TUNE IS TO CONQUER CYNICISM, ANGER AND PREJUDICE. WE NEED TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN THE SONGS OF OUR HISTORY AND CULTURE, FOR THEY WILL NEED ALL THE SUPPORT AND CONTEXT WE CAN BESTOW UPON THEM AS THEY ENDURE ONE OF OUR CULTURE’S MOST TRYING AND DEFINING ERAS.**

**ART HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT THE EXPRESSION OF OUR MOST TREASURED VALUES, OUR DEEPEST EMOTIONS AND PROFOUND THOUGHTS. ART IS A GIFT, A CREATIVE SPIRIT, WHICH CAN NURTURE US THROUGH TROUBLED TIMES. IT CAN EVOKE CELEBRATION AND PROVOKE LAUGHTER, BUT IN THE END PERHAPS ART’S GREATEST VALUE IS ITS ABILITY TO HEAL.**

**ART BUILDS BRIDGES ACROSS OUR DEEPEST CHASMS AND WIDEST DIVIDES. ART CAN HEAL THE SOUL, CALM THE SPIRIT AND EXPAND THE MIND. AT ITS CORE, ART ALSO TEACHES OUR CHILDREN TO**

**RESPECT DIVERSE CULTURES AND UNFAMILIAR IDEAS, THEREBY GIVING VALUE TO EVERY HUMAN BEING.**

**SO TODAY I COME TO SAN DIEGO TO HELP CELEBRATE THE WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENTS OF YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT, LOCAL ARTS AGENCY AND ORGANIZATIONS, MANY OF WHICH ARE PART OF A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL.**

**AS YOU MAY KNOW, GOVERNOR DAVIS INCLUDED A HISTORIC \$10 MILLION DOLLARS IN OUR BASE-LINE BUDGET LAST YEAR FOR ARTS EDUCATION. THE COUNCIL USED THESE FUNDS TO ESTABLISH THREE NEW PROGRAMS IN ARTS EDUCATION, THE EXEMPLARY ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM, ARTS PARTNERSHIPS FOR EDUCATION, AND DEMONSTRATIONS SITES.**

**THE EXEMPLARY ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPPORTS OUR HIGHEST RANKED ARTS ORGANIZATIONS TO CHALLENGE THEM TO DEEPEN, BROADEN OR EXTEND THEIR PROGRAMS. WE ARE ASKING THESE ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE A “VALUE ADDED” PROJECT OR PROJECTS TO THEIR ARTS EDUCATION OFFERINGS TO BUILD CAPACITY AND STRENGTHEN THEIR ARTS EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE.**

**OUR SECOND PROGRAM, ARTS PARTNERSHIPS FOR EDUCATION, WHICH IS LED BY SAN DIEGO’S CAC MEMBER PHYLLIS EPSTEIN, IS ABOUT LEVERAGING PRIVATE DOLLARS AND ASKS CORPORATIONS AND BUSINESSES, PARTICULARLY THOSE THAT DEPEND UPON CREATIVE CAPITAL TO JOIN ARTS ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHOOLS IN ESTABLISHING A THREE-LEGGED PARTNERSHIP. THIS PARTNERSHIP IS DESIGNED TO FOSTER CREATIVITY IN SCHOOLS THROUGH THE ARTS.**

**FINALLY, PERHAPS OUR MOST AMBITIOUS EFFORT IS OUR DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM. OVER 150 MODEL PROGRAMS, MANY OF THEM NEW, HAVE BEEN FUNDED FORMING A KIND OF INSTITUTE THAT WILL DEVELOP BEST PRACTICES IN ARTS EDUCATION. THIS PORGRAM IS IN A SENSE OUR LABORATORY IN ARTS EDUCATION. THIS PROGRAM IS ABOUT FUNDING MODELS THAT PROVIDE MAXIMUM CHANGE IN THE CLASSROOM AND AT THE SCHOOL IN TERMS OF INCREASES IN ARTS SKILLS, OTHER COGNITIVE CHANGES OR AFFECTIVE DOMAIN OUTCOMES SUCH AS IMPROVED SELF-CONCEPT AND OTHER ATTITUDINAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES LIKE REDUCED TRUANCY, DROPOUTS OR DISCIPLINARY INCIDENTS. THIS PROGRAM IS BEING STUDIED BY WESTED LAB, WHICH IS ONE OF AMERICA’S FOREMOST EVALUATION INSTITUTES.**

**INDEED, IT IS A GREAT THRILL TO BE HERE TO LAUNCH THE SAN FIEGO ARTS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP FUNDED IN PART THROUGH THE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

**IT IS OUR MISSION AND GOAL TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM THROUGH THIS NATIONAL EMERGENCY EVEN THOUGH THAT MAY BE DIFFICULT. I ASK YOU ALL TO STAND WITH THE ARTS COUNCIL IN OUR DETERMINATION TO BRING ALL THE ARTS TO ALL THE KIDS. NOTHING LESS WILL SUFFICE.**

**NOTHING LESS THAN THAT KIND OF COMMITMENT WILL EQUIP OUR STUDENTS TO BECOME ALL THAT THEY CAN BE. NOTHING SHORT OF A FULL ARTS EDUCATION CAN PREPARE STUDENTS TO ENTER A WORLD WHERE THERE ARE NO BORDERS, AND THE REALITY IS THAT WHAT HAPPENS HERE EFFECTS PEOPLE EVERYWHERE AND VICE-VERSA. UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE THROUGH CULTURE IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN TRULY SAY WE HAVE EDUCATED OUR CHILDREN. ONLY THEN WILL WE BE SURE THAT DISTRUST AND PREJUDICE OF PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT SKIN COLORS, ACCENTS OR CULTURE WILL BE ELIMINATED FROM OUR COUNTRY.**

**NOTHING LESS WILL ENABLE ALL OUR STUDENTS TO SING AN AMERICAN TUNE. FOR THE ARTS ARE A GIFT FOR ALL SEASONS, IN PEACE OR WAR, PROSPERITY OR DEPRESSION.**

**SO I ASK EVERY ONE OF YOU TO JOIN ME IN SAYING TO OUR DECISION MAKERS, LEGISLATORS, SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS, PRINCIPALS AND SUPERINTENDENTS, DON'T FORSAKE ART AND MUSIC, THEATER AND DANCE. BE RESOLUTE AND INNOVATIVE. REINVIGORATE OUR ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

**THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH IS THIS, WE, - ALL OF US- NEED THE ARTS MORE NOW THAN EVER, TO CONNECT, TEACH AND INSPIRE. AND WHEN WE FIND OURSELVES AT LONG LAST ACCROSS THIS BRIDGE OF UNCERTAINTY, INTO A NEW AGE OF PEACE, WE CAN LOOK BACK ON OUR EFFORTS, STARTED HERE TODAY, AND SAY - THESE WERE NOT THE DARKEST OF DAYS BUT WERE IN FACT THE FIRST MOMENTS OF OUR FINEST HOUR.**